

Reply of Government.—No such general rule can be passed. Questions relating to rights of way primarily belong to civil courts. When local officers interfere in such matters for the convenience of the people they have to take care that each case is properly investigated and they do not unnecessarily encroach upon the jurisdiction of civil courts.

SUBJECT No. 115.

Fifty yards rule in respect of water courses in coffee land.

Mr. T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—The restriction laid down by Government regarding the cultivation of a margin of 50 yards on either side of streams may be reconsidered.

Reply of Government.—The subject has been finally disposed of and cannot be re-opened.

SUBJECT No. 116.

Cess on coffee.

Messrs. T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association, and C. Vasudeva Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The North Mysore Native Planters' Association is not in favor of the levy of the cess on coffee which the European planting community in Mysore is urging on the Government of India for the popularization of coffee. If the question should come up before Government, it is requested that the native planters, who form a large majority and own a much greater extent of coffee land than the European community and who also produce by intensive cultivation more maunds to the acre, may be consulted before any decision is arrived at. The cess need not be levied as it will not improve prices. Indian planters form only a small fraction of coffee producers in the world and as the prices depend entirely upon the Brazil market, Indian coffee can hold its own, only if its quality is superior. The cess is intended to be applied in advertising it. If it were to advertise Mysore coffee only, there can be no objection.

There are altogether 140,000 acres under coffee cultivation in Mysore. Of these, 100,000 are in the holding of Indians. They sell most of their coffee locally as they find it more profitable to do so. Many of the small coffee planters are able to increase the produce by intensive cultivation and as the cess is nine pies per maund or three annas per cwt., they will have to pay the cess in a higher proportion. The cess is moreover intended to popularize coffee of every description and not merely Indian coffee.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.—Indian coffee is exported to France and other places. The cess will popularize coffee in England. Messrs. Volkart Brothers and others who buy coffee locally export it chiefly to foreign countries. The cess will therefore mean a loss of price to Indian producers. Removal of all duties on coffee will produce better results.

Mr. Crawford.—Excepting the North Mysore Native Planters' Association, all other Planters, Native and Indian, are in favor of the cess. The cess will not be utilized merely in advertising the coffee in England, but

all over the world. The money will be given to an advertising firm in England who will do the needful. If coffee is consumed locally no cess will have to be paid as it will be levied only on the exported article. Unless all planters co-operate, prices cannot improve and as the Government of India refuse to take action if all planters do not apply for it unanimously, these differences should not prevail.

Reply of Government.—No proposal has been made to the Government about the levy of the cess and the Association will be consulted in due course, if such a proposal is received.

SUBJECT No. 117.

Coffee deterioration.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The London merchants are of opinion that Indian coffee has deteriorated. It is the experience of many planters that the large show of blossoms does not set in properly. Experts may be asked to investigate the causes for deterioration of the quality of coffee and the failure of the blossoms to set in properly and suggest suitable remedies. Arrangements may also be made for the introduction of new seeds. As Indian planters do not belong to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, they cannot move Mr. Anstead, their Scientific Officer, to study the subject.

Reply of Government.—The subject will be taken up if practicable in due course, but the chances of early action are poor. Try the Scientific Officer specially engaged by the Planters' Associations.

SUBJECT No. 118.

Disposal by malki sale of relinquished coffee lands.

Mr. K. Tammaiya, Hassan District Board.

Summary of discussion.—Similar to the disposal of relinquished dry and wet lands by malki sale, the relinquished coffee lands may also be dealt with without reference to the upset price of Rs. 10 per acre. Moreover, as it is very troublesome and costly to improve such coffee lands, the shraya system of revenue may be allowed.

Reply of Government.—Some concessions can be shown in the case of lands lying relinquished for more than three years. If application is made to the local authorities for the grant of any particular land lying waste, the case will be dealt with on its merits.

SUBJECT No. 119.

Darkhasts for banjar lands.

- (1) Mr. Ramachandrappa Dube, Kumsi Sub-Taluk.
- (2) and (4) Mr. Srinivasa Dikshit, Shikarpur Taluk.
- (3) Mr. A. Narasimhengar, Sagar Taluk.
- (4) Messrs. K. Shamaingur and Nadig Bheema Rao, Channagiri Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) When a banjar land is applied for for purposes of cultivation, the grant of the saguvali chit to the darkhastdar is delayed till the close of the year. By the time the chit is received, the cultivating season will have been practically over, and the darkhastdar is thus obliged to unnecessarily pay the year's kandayam. It is prayed that orders may be passed directing the grant of saguvali chits immediately on receipt of darkhasts.